

# House Armed Services Committee

## DEMOCRATS

*For immediate release  
March 2, 2005*

**Ike Skelton, Ranking Member**

**[http://www.d.house.gov/hasc\\_democrats](http://www.d.house.gov/hasc_democrats)**

**Contact:**

Loren Dealy,  
HASC Democratic Communications  
(202) 226-6339

Lara Battles,  
Rep. Skelton  
(202)-225-2876

---

## **Military Still Needs to Detail Its Long-Term Strategy for Success in Iraq**

*Washington D.C.—Today the House Armed Services Committee heard testimony from General Abizaid, head of Central Command and General Brown, head of U.S. Special Operations Command. The military still needs to explain the details of its strategy for success in Iraq and the benchmarks it will use to measure that success.*

"We need a fully-developed strategy for success, as well as a way to measure our progress," said Ranking Member, **Ike Skelton** (MO). "While we know that success is dependent on the ability of Iraqis to provide for their own security, the Administration has told us repeatedly that a timetable can't be put on these things. The Iraqi forces must have goals to work toward, and these goals will give us a way to evaluate their performance."

"In the coming weeks, it is critical that the political process include all groups in Iraq in order to succeed. We will continue to look to our military leaders for a detailed, workable plan for success that can adapt to the continuously changing circumstances on the ground," **Skelton** continued.

"In the months after Saddam fell, there was not a strategic plan to move toward a stable Iraqi government. There is now a plan being adapted for the next phase of operations," said Representative **Susan Davis** (CA). "It is critical that our plan for success make use of all the U.S. government's capabilities—from military to State Department to U.S. Aid for International Development. While we have the finest military forces in the world, we can't win in Iraq without the efforts of these other agencies, as well."

###